

# Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

April 2007  
Volume 8, Issue 2

Questions/Comments:  
Shanell Wagler, (515) 281-4537  
[shanell.wagler@iowa.gov](mailto:shanell.wagler@iowa.gov)



## In this issue:

Cover Article	1
2007 ECI Day on the Hill	
Updates	2
Empowerment	
Upcoming Events/Activities	
ECHE System Update	
Iowa Empowerment State News	4
Office of Empowerment	
Welcomes Family Support	
Coordinator	
March Meeting Highlights	
IEB Seeking Nominations	
Local News	6
100 Best Communities	
The Board Room Corner	
Statewide Information	8
What is Parenting Education?	
Iowa AEYC/TEACH Iowa	
Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral	
Iowa Head Start	
Health News	12
HCCI Update	
Covering Kids & Families	
Oral Health Bureau Update	
Upcoming Opportunities	14

## 2007 Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill a Success

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 brought around 400 early childhood advocates to the Statehouse for The Early Care, Health & Education Day on the Hill. This year's event was organized and planned by Early Childhood Iowa (ECI), an alliance of stakeholders in early care, health and education systems that affect children age 0 to 5 in the state of Iowa ([www.earlychildhoodiowa.org](http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org)). True to its purpose, which is to support the development and integration of an early care, health and education system for Iowa, this event brought multiple partners to share the message that *Quality Counts* in their specific areas of the system.



Representative Ako Abdul-Samad visits with Sarah Ramsey of United Way of Central Iowa



Representative Gary Worthan meets with advocates from Buena Vista, Crawford, and Sac Counties

Dr. Andrea McGuire enhanced the day's theme as she expounded on early childhood brain development and the importance of quality environments and experiences. Kate Walton, lobbyist for Orchard Place - Child Guidance Center, completed the morning with an excellent Advocacy 101 training to prep everyone for the day's activities.

New this year was the expansion of Tuesdays for Tots to include additional activities at the Statehouse during this legislative session. The idea was to keep early childhood issues in front of policymakers beyond the one day's event. Early Childhood Iowa enlisted the assistance of the five Child Care Resource & Referral regions to coordinate these activities. The following schedule gives an idea of the dates and themes that were planned:



Senator Dave Johnson and Representative Mike May with individuals from Child Health Specialty Clinics

February 13 – Valentine's created by children were delivered to the legislators

February 27 – Children created their "Picture of the Future". These were delivered to the legislators with a note that suggested that by investing early, they are assisting the children in reaching their goals for the future.

March 13 – St Patrick's Day artwork was created by children and delivered to legislators with a chocolate "coin" attached.

March 27 – The legislators were invited to attend a legislative breakfast with early childhood advocates



Representative Dave Heaton getting down to business with Henry County constituents

April 3 – At the time of writing, this event is yet to come. The idea was to give each legislator a packet of seeds, reminding them that their investments in the early years, helps to "Grow our Youngest Iowans".

ECI will be following up regarding these activities to see if they were well received and meaningful to legislators in reaching the goal of keeping early childhood in the forefront.

**Disclaimer:**  
Many articles in this newsletter are submitted by various entities. The views and opinions contained within may or may not be those of Iowa Community Empowerment.

# Update February 2007 March 2007

## Links to Empowerment Web sites:

State: [www.empowerment.state.ia.us](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us)

**Benton County**  
[www.bcempowerment.com](http://www.bcempowerment.com)

**Black Hawk**  
[www.cedarvalleypromise.org](http://www.cedarvalleypromise.org)

**Buchanan Delaware Fayette**  
[www.bdfempowerment.org](http://www.bdfempowerment.org)

**Cedar**  
[www.empowercedarco.org](http://www.empowercedarco.org)

**Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth**  
[www.cghwempowerment.com](http://www.cghwempowerment.com)

**Dubuque**  
[www.empowerdubuque.org](http://www.empowerdubuque.org)

**Floyd, Chickasaw, Mitchell**  
[www.fmcempowerment.com](http://www.fmcempowerment.com)

**HAWC (Howard, Allamakee, Winneshiek, Clayton)**  
[www.HAWC-Iowa.com](http://www.HAWC-Iowa.com)

**Hardin**  
<http://www.empowerhardin.com/>

**Henry**  
[www.healthylhenrycounty.org](http://www.healthylhenrycounty.org)

**Humboldt, Hamilton, Wright**  
[www.buildingfamilies.net](http://www.buildingfamilies.net)

**Jasper**  
<http://www.jaspercountyempowerment.org/>

**Johnson**  
<http://www.jcempowerment.org>

**Linn**  
[www.linncountvcommunityempowerment.org](http://www.linncountvcommunityempowerment.org)

**Marshall**  
[www.youthandviolence.org](http://www.youthandviolence.org)

**Pocahontas, Calhoun and Webster**  
[www.linking-families.com](http://www.linking-families.com)

**Polk** [www.hspa.org](http://www.hspa.org)

**Scott:**  
[www.scottcountyempowerment.org](http://www.scottcountyempowerment.org)

**Story**  
<http://www.storycountyfamily.org>

**Washington**  
[www.empowerwashington.org](http://www.empowerwashington.org)

**Woodbury** [www.siouxlandship.org](http://www.siouxlandship.org)

## Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

- House Early Childhood Subcommittee - Feb 1, 6, 7, 8, 14
- ECI - Quality, Services & Programs manual review committee - Feb 1, 9
- ECI Co-chairs meeting - Feb 1 & March 1
- Presentations to Senate Human Resources - Feb 7, 13
- ECHE Day on the Hill - Feb 7
- State Child Care Advisory Steering Committee - Feb 8
- ECHE Congress Planning - Feb 9, Mar 20
- Presentation to Education Standing Committee - Feb 12
- Partners Meeting on HSB 1142 - Feb 13
- Presentation to Education Appropriations Committee - Feb 14
- ECI - Quality, Services & Programs Legislative Breakfast (Family Support) - Feb 14
- Empowerment Contacts/Coordinators quarterly TA meeting - Feb 14
- ECI - Governance component workgroup - Feb 15, March 15
- Maternal Depression Screening - Feb 15
- PIRC & PAT Meeting - Feb 15
- Head Start Management Team meeting - Feb 16
- Results Based Accountability Training with Mark Friedman - Feb 15 & 16
- Update and coordination with DHS, Child Care & Community Bureau - Feb 19
- Title V Strategic Planning meeting - Feb 19
- Early Head Start networking meeting - Feb 20
- ECHE Congress Exec Committee - Feb 26
- ECHE RFP sub-committee - Feb 27
- Senate Human Resources - Feb 28, March 1
- Education Appropriations - March 6
- Senate Human Resources , review of bill - March 6, 7
- PAT National Office teleconference - March 6
- ECI - Quality, Services & Programs Legislative breakfast - March 7
- Leadership in Action Project meeting - March 7
- State Child Care Advisory Committee - March 8
- Iowa Empowerment Board Meeting - March 9
- QRS Oversight Committee - March 13
- Off to a Good Start follow up meeting - March 13
- ECI - Quality, Services & Programs workgroup meeting - March 14
- Early ACCESS Council - March 16
- Business Development Center, conversation with DHS - March 16
- Evidence Based Family Support TA to Child Development Coordinating Council - Mar 21
- Professional Development Steering Committee - March 23
- Interactive Constructivist Science Conference - Mar 23
- Growing Up Poor presentation to Commission on the Status of Women- Mar 26
- Professional Development System meeting, Dan Haggard - March 26 & 27
- ECI/Tuesdays for Tots - Legislative Breakfast - Coordinated by CCR&R Region 2 - March 27
- ECI Stakeholders - March 27

## Upcoming Events Calendar at a Glance

### Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders

June 12, 2007  
ChildServe  
Johnston

### Empowerment Coordinators/Contacts Meetings

June 13, 2007  
State Historical Building  
Des Moines

### Partnering for Parents On-line Training

April 16, 2007

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp/connect.reg.html>

### Healthy Families America Training

April 16-20  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Des Moines  
[nancy.krause@iowa.org](mailto:nancy.krause@iowa.org)

### 2007 Kids First Conference

April 25-27, 2007  
Gateway Center  
Ames

<http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/youth-services/kidsfirst/kidsfirst2007>

### Love 'Em or Lose 'Em - Getting Good People to Stay

April 28, 2007  
Kelly Conference Center,  
Methodist Hospital, Des Moines  
(see page 8 of this newsletter for details)

### Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Conference

May 7-8, 2007  
Four Points Sheraton West  
West Des Moines  
[www.pcaiowa.org](http://www.pcaiowa.org)

### Partnering With Parents ONLINE

June 11 - November 30, 2007  
[www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp)

### Explosive Child Conference

June 15, 2007  
Sheraton  
West Des Moines  
[www.iffcmh.org/calendar.htm](http://www.iffcmh.org/calendar.htm)

### Understanding Parent & Child Development

June 26-27, 2007  
Ames, IA

[www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp)

### The Governor's Conference on Public Health

### Barn Raising VI: Celebrating Healthy Communities

August 2-3, 2007  
Drake University  
Des Moines  
[www.idph.state.ia.us](http://www.idph.state.ia.us)

## Site Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- Annual Report Review - Ida County - Feb 15
- Annual Report Review - Boone County - Feb 21
- Annual Report Review - Cedar County - Feb 22
- Annual Report Review - DM/Louisa - March 7
- Annual Report Review - Cass, Mills, Montgomery - March 12
- Annual Report Review - Jasper - March 22
- Annual Report Review - Mahaska, Wapello - March 28
- Annual Report Review - Jefferson/Keokuk - Mar 29
- Annual Report Review - Marion - Mar 29
- Board training - Benton County - Feb 20
- Warren County Family Support Collaborative - Feb 20
- Family Support On-site Technical Assistance - BV, Crawford, Sac - Feb 23
- Board Development Training - Clinton, Jackson - Feb 26
- Corner County TA - March 6
- Family Support On-site Technical Assistance - Jones - March 12
- Ida County Health Fair - March 15
- Family Support On-site TA - HAWC - Mar 15
- Adair County Family Support Collaborative - Mar 22
- Board training - Corner Counties - March 26
- Family Support TA - Boone - March 27
- Warren County - Art of Referral workshop - Mar 28
- Board meeting - BV, Crawford, Sac - March 28
- Performance Measures training - BV, Crawford, Sac - March 28

## Linkages/Outreach Activities

- Meeting with Governor's Education Policy Staff - Feb 2 & Mar 30
- Meeting with Representative Kaufmann - Feb 8
- AmeriCorps VISTA Supervisor's training - Feb 6-9
- America's Promise Grant Report, Washington DC - Feb 13
- Meeting with IDPH Immunization Bureau - Feb 27
- AMCHP Conference, Washington, DC - March 2-5
- Unplanned Pregnancies Project meeting - March 7
- HOPES/Family Support meeting with IDPH - March 8
- Volunteer Awareness Day - IA Commission on Volunteer Services Day on the Hill - March 8
- Iowa Character Counts Dinner - March 9
- State Agency Workgroup - Youth Development - March 13
- Afterschool Alliance Day on the Hill - March 15
- Workforce Development Legislative Forum - March 21
- Head Start State Collaboration Office stakeholder meeting - Mar 30
- Born Learning Parent Advisory Committee - Mar 30



## ECHE System Building Updates

The Quality Services & Programs component group of Early Childhood Iowa has finalized the following materials:

1. **Issue Brief # 4: Family Support** – This issue brief highlights the following:
  - a. Family support through home visiting
  - b. Components of effective family support programs
  - c. The importance of family support
  - d. Challenges in developing a family support system.
2. **Issue Brief # 5: Effective Family Support Programs** – This issue brief provides an overview of the following:
  - a. Family support programs
  - b. The number of Iowa children being served by family support programs
  - c. Different types of family support programs
  - d. Results from an exploratory study done relating to Iowa’s family support programs
  - e. Conclusions and recommendations based on the results of the study
3. **The Evidence-Based Workbook: Developing A Quality Assurance & Evidence-Based Practices Manual for Your Program** – This workbook serves as a practical, step-by-step guide to identifying program practices and developing a project manual relating to home visiting.

The full versions of each of these three materials can be accessed at [http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/eci/stakeholder/component\\_groups/quality\\_services.html](http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/eci/stakeholder/component_groups/quality_services.html). For technical assistance related to any of the above products, contact Janet Gartin, [janet.gartin@iowa.gov](mailto:janet.gartin@iowa.gov) or 515-242-5895.

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Office of Empowerment Welcomes New Staff Member



It is with great excitement that we announce a new staff member at the Department of Management, Office of Empowerment. On January 26<sup>th</sup>, Janet Gartin began a new position with the department as the Coordinator for Family Support Programs.

Janet brings to the position a wealth of knowledge and experience to lead our state in this area. Janet has exemplified her commitment and passion to serving children and families in Iowa. Her knowledge of FaDSS, community action and community-based efforts will serve her well in this endeavor.

Janet has jumped into her new role with both feet. She has begun the process to become the statewide coordinator for the Parents as Teachers (PAT) programs across our state. She is also in high demand from local boards and providers to provide technical assistance regarding programming, specifically looking at consistency and bringing attention to the quality of activities supporting families. She is promoting evidence-based models and following the fidelity of the successful models.

Janet is also building a stronger partnership at a state level. She is a part of Early Childhood Iowa’s Quality Services and Programs Component group. This group has just developed and released two new tools: an evidence-based family support workbook and a family support issue brief. She is also pulling together a family support leadership group to assist with systemic issues for better coordination for family support programs. Finally, Janet will be working with state-funded programs as we improve communication to support cross-program professional development opportunities and building a uniform data collection system.

As we continue to build the system of systems that support our youngest children and their families in Iowa, family support programs are a strong component. Janet in her role as Family Support Coordinator serves as a great addition to the needed attention to this area.



[www.empowerment.state.ia.us](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us)

## Iowa Empowerment Board News March Meeting Highlights

The Iowa Empowerment Board met on Friday, March 9, 2007 at the Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines. Floyd Winter, Board chair, called the meeting to order and introduced the new legislative members of the IEB that serve in an ex-officio capacity. Present at the meeting were Senators Staci Appel, Democrat from District 37 and Becky Schmitz, Democrat from District 45. Also new to the Iowa Empowerment Board is Representative Elesha Gayman, Democrat from District 84.

Following the review of the agenda and approval of the January 30 minutes of the Board, Shanell Wagler presented an administrative and legislative update. She reminded the board that this fall marks Empowerment's tenth year and asked for their interest in an event to celebrate this milestone which was proposed to be held in conjunction with the November 2007 ECHE Congress in Ames. Unanimous support was given and a small committee of board members and staff was formed to begin planning the event.

Debra Scrowther presented a recommendation from the state technical assistance team regarding distribution of the quality improvement funds should they be legislated again this year. After rich conversation, the Board adopted the same method of distribution as was in place for last year's funds - if the funds are appropriated, each CEA will receive a \$30,000 base with the remainder of the funds allocated through the School Ready formula. Janet Gartin, Family Support Coordinator with the Office of Empowerment, gave an overview of what is happening in Iowa in the area of family support and the vision for the future. Also shared, were the results of the recently completed Household Health Survey by Jean Willard from the University of Iowa, Public Policy Center.

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to small group discussion and review of current bills before the legislature in the area of early childhood. The groups were broken out by the five state result areas and the bills pertaining to each result were assigned. The purpose of the exercise was for the IEB to take a proactive stance to pending legislation that potentially has a direct impact on Community Empowerment activities. There was rich discussion in each of the groups and the exercise was viewed as highly beneficial.

*The next meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board will be May 11, 2007 at The Lodge, 900 Spruce Hills Dr, Bettendorf, Iowa.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Nominations Sought For Iowa Empowerment Board



The Iowa Empowerment Board consists of sixteen citizen members, six state agency directors, and six members of the general assembly. The state Empowerment Board currently is seeking candidates for citizen members. Citizen members are appointed by Governor Chester J. Culver and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. Interested candidates must complete a gubernatorial appointment resume in addition to seeking a letter of recommendation from their local empowerment board. The gubernatorial appointment resume can be found at

<http://www.governor.iowa.gov/administration/boards/>

Citizen member selections are reflective of the state's congressional districts to ensure representation from across the state. An equally important criterion is that appointments reflect the ethnic, cultural, social, and economic diversity of our state. We encourage candidates from diverse populations to apply.

You can also find the job responsibilities of an Iowa Empowerment Board member on our web site at the following link,

[http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/Common/pdf/ieb\\_responsibilities.pdf](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/Common/pdf/ieb_responsibilities.pdf)

Please contact the Office of Empowerment if you need more information.

# MAKING EVERY PLACE A GREAT PLACE TO GROW UP: 100 COMMUNITIES LEAD THE WAY



For more information please contact  
Beth Govoni at  
[beth.govoni@iowalifechanging.com](mailto:beth.govoni@iowalifechanging.com)

The 100 Best Communities for Young People celebrates outstanding, innovative efforts across the country that improve the well-being of our young people. It is well-deserved recognition of the hard work by communities, Alliance partners and individuals working together to keep the [Five Promises](#) to our children:

- Caring adults
- Safe places
- A healthy start
- Effective education
- Opportunities to help others

Even more, the local efforts and ideas honored among the 100 Best help set a vision of what ALL communities can — and should — be for young people.

The State of Iowa is proud to announce that four Iowa communities—Dubuque, Lamoni, Mason City, and Pottawattamie County—have been honored among the nation's 100 Best Communities for Children and Youth.

## **Dubuque, IA**

Dubuque is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part because of the work of the Dubuque Mentoring Partnership (DMP), a collaborative effort including Big Brothers Big Sisters, Dubuque Community Schools, Holy Family Catholic Schools, St. Marks, Dubuque County Extension AmeriCorps, Court Appointed Special Advocate, RSVP-Finley Hospital, Helping Services of NE Iowa, Foster Grandparents, Dubuque Community Y and Mississippi Valley Promise. Thanks to the DMP, mentors have more than tripled since 2005 and the number of kids waiting for a mentor has been cut in half.

## **Lamoni, IA**

Lamoni is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because of the work of the Lamoni Area SAFE Community Coalition. The Coalition is a positive prevention program designed to build developmental assets in all youth. One facet of the program is the work of a Coalition project director who works out of an office in the school district, allowing for daily contact with all youth, teachers, and other professionals to meet the needs of each individual student. For its efforts, Lamoni received the 2005 Harold E. Hughes Exceptional Rural Community Award from the National Rural Institute.

## **Mason City, IA**

Mason City is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because of the work of the Mason City Youth Task Force, where youth have collaborated with the local Head Start Program and two preschools through the "Reading Buddies" program. The effort involves high school youth mentoring and reading to preschoolers once a week during the school year. The program encourages both sets of students to read for pleasure and adds a boost to the preschool curriculum, which is aimed at helping children to be school ready.

## **Pottawattamie County, IA**

Pottawattamie County is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because Iowa State University Extension, AEA 13, and Promise Partners have formed a strong collaborative partnership to promote positive youth development across the county. This collaboration holds joint planning sessions, strategically plans youth initiatives in each community in the county, shares training opportunities, staff, resources, and braids funding streams to support the community youth plan. These partnerships have greatly expanded the opportunities and supports for youth in Pottawattamie County, particularly in the small rural communities in the eastern parts of the county.

## The Board Room Corner: Second in a Series

Submitted by Janet Gartin,  
Family Support Coordinator

*The intent of this series is to give an overview of Robert's Rules of Order (Part One) and then to offer subsequent articles that provide more in-depth information about a particular aspect of Parliamentary Procedure that many boards find challenging.*

*Stay Tuned: Third in the series will discuss the development of the board's agenda.*



## Who's Who: Leadership Roles

Leadership is always an important aspect of a board's success. This segment will review each of the leadership positions of a board. However, it is not the title that gives someone power – a person holding a leadership position only has the power that is given to the position in the bylaws or by Iowa Code.

### The Chairperson

The role of chairperson may vary but should be clearly spelled out in the bylaws. Some of the common duties of the chair are:

- Preside at all meetings
- Serve as official representative of the organization
- Sign documents on behalf of the organization
- Serve as ex officio member of committees as specified in the bylaws
- Work with the secretary to prepare the agenda for the meetings

Most people find presiding at meetings to be the most challenging part of the chairperson's job. While presiding the chair has many responsibilities, which include...

- Calling the meeting to order on time.
- Announcing the business before the board as prescribed on the agenda
- Determining the presence of a quorum
- Recognizing members who are entitled to the floor
- Processing all motions
- Ruling on any points of order
- Conducting the meeting in a fair and equitable manner

Because the chair is presiding over the meeting, he or she should maintain an aura of neutrality and refrain from making any motions. In addition, the chairperson should vacate the chair if he or she wishes to debate any motions. The chair does not vote unless to break a tie or cause a tie.

Chairs of local empowerment boards must meet the definition of a citizen representative or be an elected official.

### The Vice Chairperson

The role of the vice chairperson is straightforward – the vice chair presides when the chair is absent or must vacate the chair and fills a vacancy in the office of chairperson. The vice chairperson may also serve as the chairperson elect if so specified in the board's bylaws. This means that the vice chair automatically becomes chair at the end of the term of the chair or when the chair resigns.

The main job of the vice chairperson is to be familiar with the chairperson's duties so that if the chair becomes unable to serve, the vice chairperson is prepared to step in and take over. We encourage you to think of the vice chair as a support system for the chairperson.

It is inappropriate for a person to accept the position of vice chair if they are not willing to become the chairperson should there be a vacancy in the office of chair. We would therefore, strongly recommend that the vice chairperson of a local empowerment board also meet the definition of a citizen representative or be an elected official.

### The Secretary

The secretary is the official record keeper of the board. This position goes far beyond keeping the minutes – it includes keeping an accurate list of members, the roll-call list, the governing documents, committee membership and so much more.

In empowerment areas where there is a paid staff person, this role usually falls to staff and is not an elected position on the board. The secretary's responsibilities include...

- ❑ Work with the chair to prepare the agenda
- ❑ Distribute to the members before the meeting the packet of material needed for the meeting
- ❑ Send out the meeting notification

During the meeting...

- ❑ In the absence of the chair and vice chair the secretary calls the meeting to order and immediately conducts the election of a temporary chairperson
- ❑ Maintain the official attendance record
- ❑ Keep notes of what occurred at the meeting
- ❑ Sit near the chair and serve as a resource to the chair

After the meeting...

- ❑ If any governing documents were amended at the meeting, the secretary shall make changes and distribute new copies to members
- ❑ Prepare and distribute the minutes of the meeting

*Stay Tuned: Third in the series will discuss developing your agenda!*

*Sources:*

Riggs, Norm and Quinn, Tom. *Simplified Parliamentary Procedure*. Iowa State University Extension, December 1998.

Sylvester, Nancy. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Robert's Rules*. 2004.

## **Part One: Parenting Education: What do we need to know and be able to do to be effective?**

**Submitted by Kim Greder,  
Assistant Professor, Human  
Development and Family Studies  
Family Life Extension State  
Specialist**

**Part Two Coming in June:  
Who are Parent Educators and  
What is their Role?**



*Parenting is the process of assuming major responsibility for the development, growth and nurturing of a child.*

### **What is parenting education?**

Parenting education directly addresses parents' developmental and child-rearing issues and provides information for adult growth typically through the early years of parenthood. Parenting education focuses specifically on parent development (increasing knowledge and skills of parents), and assists parents in understanding, guiding, nurturing, motivating, and advocating for their children, as well as caring for themselves as parents.

Over 50,000 parenting and family support programs reach millions of parents every day. There are hundreds of regional parenting publications and several parenting series available through television, internet and radio. Parenting education classes and family support initiatives have grown in popularity substantially across the country; and initiatives such as Head Start, the court system, schools, workforce development, and Iowa Empowerment programs have allocated funding and established requirements for parenting/family support programs as a component of their services.

### **Why is parenting education needed?**

As the saying goes, children do not come with a textbook. Parents do not magically know how to parent. All parents, regardless of their income, academic background, role models and other experiences need information and support to help them raise their children to their potential. Of course, the level of information and support parents need varies by parent.

### **How is parenting education related to family support?**

Parenting education is one strategy within a larger array of comprehensive family support strategies designed to increase school achievement, enhance family resiliency, and decrease the incidence of child abuse.



**Iowa  
AEYC/T.E.A.C.H.  
Early Childhood®  
IOWA**

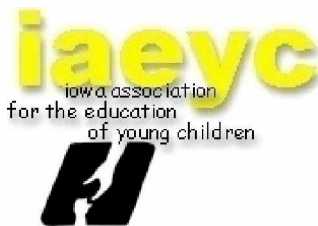
Submitted by Barb Merrill, Executive  
Director, Iowa AEYC/T.E.A.C.H.  
Early Childhood® IOWA Program  
Manager



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA serves over 250 teachers, directors and child care providers who seek college degrees and CDA credentials. New this spring is a part-day preschool associate degree model which will allow preschool teachers to accept a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship without requiring the preschool to provide paid release time. Unlike full-day child care programs where providers are busy with children from 40-60 hours per week, a teacher at a part-day preschool (where children attend only 2 – 3 hours a day) has flexibility in her/his schedule to attend classes. This should make it easier for preschools and Head Start programs to be sponsors of T.E.A.C.H.

Do you know someone with an associates' degree who seeks the bachelors' degree coursework? Stay tuned! T.E.A.C.H. hopes to support this level of education by the 2007-08 school year.

T.E.A.C.H. is now part of the *Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children*, the leading professional organization for those who care about and for children ages birth to age 8.



Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children is an affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. NAEYC is the world's largest early childhood education organization, supporting early education, teaching and learning, and promoting positive public policies and our profession since 1926.

Iowa AEYC has been organized and active in Iowa for nearly 50 years, and now has nearly 1200 members. We have a 26 member Governing Board, led by Donna Kennebeck from Des Moines, Governing Board President. We provide an annual two-day state-wide early childhood conference, held in Des Moines every fall. Iowa AEYC has fifteen active chapters in communities all over the state. If you're a member, you receive our state quarterly newsletter and information from your chapter about local events, as well as other membership benefits such as the *Young Children* journal. If you are not a member and would like some information, please contact us at [info@iowaaeyc.org](mailto:info@iowaaeyc.org). Several Empowerment areas are purchasing memberships for the providers and teachers in the local area. We applaud your commitment to professionalism!

Also new and exciting is *Quality Improvement for Administrators*, our NAEYC Accreditation Facilitation Project being implemented this spring in communities around the state, including **Davenport, Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Cedar Falls, Fort Dodge, Ottumwa, and Des Moines**. Trained facilitators and center directors are meeting regularly to explore and support each other in learning to implement the new NAEYC accreditation standards. If you need more information about groups in your area, please call Rhonda Bancroft in our office for contact information or the next meeting dates (515-331-8000 ext. 12).

Please join us for our agency **Open House, Friday, April 20 from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.** Our Open House kicks off the Week of the Young Child, *Building Better Futures for all Children*, celebrated nationally April 22-27. We are now located near the Merle Hay Road exit of I-80/35 at 5525 Meredith Drive, Suite F, Des Moines, 50310.

# Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral



Submitted by Mary Jo Huddleston,  
Director, CCR&R Region 5

## CCR&R and Empowerment – A Powerful Team

From the beginning, Empowerment groups have partnered with local Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agencies to deliver services in their prescribed areas. Many Empowerment teams recognized early on that local CCR&R staff knew the early childhood landscape and were well positioned to expand services with additional support. Parents are accustomed to calling the local CCR&R for child care referrals, consumer education, and referral to additional community resources. Providers are well acquainted with CCR&R as the training delivery system in the area as well as the place to call for technical assistance. A high level of trust rests with the local CCR&R.

Statewide, there are many CCR&R/Empowerment initiatives serving families and child care providers. Training examples include additional series trainings of ChildNet, PITC Infant/Toddler training, Welcome to Child Care and Welcome to School age Care. Empowerment areas sponsor conferences and special events for providers, trainings based on local assessments of need (literacy, professional development, inclusion and mental health).

Programs initiated by DHS and delivered through the CCR&R system have been funded additionally by Empowerment, increasing the number of Child Care Nurse Consultants and Home Consultants providing consultation and technical assistance to providers. Some regional CCR&R grantees have been able to establish additional local area offices, increasing accessibility of CCR&R/Empowerment services to providers, parents and community members. Collaborative community forums and coalitions are often the vehicle utilized to determine need and respond.

Thanks to strong partnerships between Empowerment and the local CCR&R, parents have increased access to preschool scholarships and child care assistance as well as local trainings designed to help them prepare their children for school.

The Quality Rating System (QRS) has provided additional opportunities for Empowerment and CCR&R to partner to support providers as they attain a rating and access resources designed to improve quality.

A survey of CCR&R Directors provides this snapshot of CCR&R/Empowerment partnerships statewide:

- Additional training opportunities and stipends to providers for completion – 15 programs
- Additional Home and center consultants – 15 (one for Spanish speaking providers)
- Additional Nurse Consultants (partnership agreements between CCR&R and local Health Departments and MCH grantees) – 5 full time and many part time
- Infant/Toddler training and technical assistance support – 6
- Additional CCR&R offices providing various levels of service – 17
- Quality initiatives, rating scale, accreditation support and QRS support – 20
- Conferences and support for provider networks – 9
- Preschool scholarships – 6
- Mental Health Consultant – 1
- Parent Education and referrals – 6
- Early Literacy, fitness, school-ready programs – 6

A total of 53.5 FTE positions are working at local CCR&R offices with Empowerment funding. It is clear that as Empowerment and CCR&R both strive to meet the vision that *Every Child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful*, we have forged strong partnerships to help assure that promise.

# Iowa Head Start



## Iowa Gets Perfect Score on Head Start Monitoring

*Submitted by Tom Rendon, Coordinator, Iowa Head Start State Collaboration Office*

For anyone who works with Head Start or Early Head Start, the importance of the Head Start Program Performance Standards cannot be over estimated. They are discussed and debated with all the reverence typically associated with sacred scripture. What is less well known is how individual programs are monitored with respect to these standards. There is no point in having high standards if there is no way to assure that these standards are being met and that programs face some consequences for not meeting them. For this reason, Head Start has put into place the Program Review Instrument for System Monitoring or PRISM. After recently being redesigned and strengthened, the results from this new monitoring process show Iowa to be among the strongest performing states in the nation.

Monitoring activities that took place during fiscal-year 2006, showed that no Iowa programs were found to be a program with deficiencies. A deficiency, according to Head Start standards, means that a program has failed to comply with one or more requirements in an area that affects child health and safety; full parent participation; any standard in the area of early childhood development and health services, family community partnerships or program design and management in a substantial way; or any demonstrated misuse of Head Start funds. Deficiency status can also result from a failure to correct any non-compliance. Not only were there no deficient programs in Iowa, none of the programs reviewed in 2006 had any non-compliance issues. That means program reviewers could not find a single area from the more than 1,700 standards where Iowa programs failed to meet expectations.

To put these results in perspective, across the nation 36 percent of reviewed grantees were found to be programs with deficiencies. In Region VII (Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska), the percentage was only 19. In Iowa, it was zero. Across the region, 30 percent of programs had no areas of non-compliance, i.e., a perfect score. In Iowa, all the programs scored perfectly. It should be noted that of the 23 programs reviewed in the region in 2006, only two were from Iowa. This year, 6 programs are up for review. While the official results are not back from those reviews, preliminary information shows that of the five that are completed, all report excellent reviews. In time, we will know if Iowa can keep its perfect score in 2007.

With the attention in Iowa on the importance of quality in early childhood programs, the PRISM process provides a useful framework to consider any kind of early childhood program assessment and quality improvement. PRISM reviews are conducted on-site once every three years for each program. The reviewers are made up of trained individuals from outside the region. The PRISM instrument itself is a list of questions to ask, observations to make and documents to review that demonstrate strong systems are in place to assure quality and compliance with standards. It includes interview guides and check lists to help assure consistent gathering of information across the breadth of standards including health and safety, fiscal, transportation services, health, nutrition, disabilities and the like. The 2007 PRISM instrument is available at <http://www.headstartreviews.com/>. Iowa Head Start programs offer quality services, and the monitoring efforts show their diligent efforts to provide the very best for Iowa's children and families.

For more information, contact Tom Rendon, 515-242-6024 or [tom.rendon@iowa.gov](mailto:tom.rendon@iowa.gov).

## Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI)



Sally Clausen, ARNP, BSN  
Healthy Child Care Iowa  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
[sclausen@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:sclausen@idph.state.ia.us)



Submitted by Jenny Untreat  
IDPH  
Covering Kids & Families

For more information about the Iowa *Covering Kids and Families* Initiative, visit <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/coveringkids>.

## CPSC Update

The U.S. government is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from consumer products, foods, and medicines. You can find information on recalled products on the Consumer Product Safety Commission web site: <http://www.cpsc.gov> or on the Food and Drug Administration website: <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>.

**Healthy Child Care Iowa** maintains a list of products that have a warning or have been recalled in the last six months.

To view recalled product information, first select a product category from the following list.

- [Beds, Cribs, and Bedding](#) no new items listed
- [Child Clothing, Shoes, and Accessories](#) 2 new items listed since Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.
- [Equipment \(including infant supplies/equipment\)](#) 5 new items listed since Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.
- [Food and Drug recalls](#) <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>: 11 new items listed nationally since Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. no new items Iowa specific. Peter Pan and Great Value **Peanut Butter** recall: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01563.html>
- [Furniture Related to Child Care and Early Education](#) 2 new items listed since Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.
- [Toys and Play Related Items](#) 7 new items listed since Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Covering Kids & Families

Covering Kids & Families has been busy finalizing and disseminating a number of outreach materials, which include:

1. **“How to Apply for Medicaid” brochure** – This brochure explains to families how they can apply for Medicaid and where to find a Medicaid application in their local area.
2. **Issue Brief # 12: S-CHIP Reauthorization: What it Means for Iowa Families** – This issue brief explains the importance of increasing SCHIP funding as it is up for reauthorization.
3. **2007 CKF Winter Report** – This report includes timely information on important issues regarding children’s health care coverage. Highlights of the report include:
  - a. An updated enrollment map
  - b. The Deficit Reduction Act
  - c. Iowa Medicaid Funding
  - d. SCHIP reauthorization
  - e. Free and reduced lunch referral
  - f. Process Improvement Collaborative team update
  - g. Recommendations for policy-makers

*All of these materials can be accessed in the Marketing Guide section of the CKF Web site at [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/coveringkids/marketing\\_guide.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/coveringkids/marketing_guide.asp).*

# News from IDPH Oral Health Bureau



By Dr. Bob Russell,  
IDPH Dental Director



## A Maryland death and oral health in Iowa Legislature considers I-Smile dental screening proposals

As the Iowa legislature considers the “I-Smile” dental home and school-readiness dental screening proposals to address the oral health care needs of underserved Iowa children, a tragedy brings emphasis to the importance of good oral health. On Feb. 25, a 12-year-old Maryland child named Deamonte died from complications resulting from an abscessed tooth. What could have been resolved with early detection and prevention or a simple \$80 tooth extraction resulted in over \$250,000 in costs, two major operations, six weeks of hospital care due to infection spreading to the child’s brain, and the child’s tragic death.

It has been said by some that a toothache will never kill you; however, this is unfortunately not always true.

Deamonte’s story is not as unique as it seems. According to 2005 Iowa Medicaid data, of the 49,670 eligible children of Deamonte’s age range (10-12 years old), only 50 percent or 24,870 received any dental services at all. Of that number, only 45 percent received preventive dental services with only 25 percent receiving dental treatment beyond preventive services. That leaves 24,800 Medicaid enrolled children ages 10-12 without any dental services in 2005. Although obtaining dental services for Medicaid enrolled children of Deamonte’s age is difficult, only 41 percent of all Medicaid children ages 1-20 received any dental service in 2005.

The Iowa Department of Public Health’s 2006 school-based sealant survey of over 1,666 third grade children in over 29 schools revealed that an average of 13 percent of the children screened presented evidence of untreated dental decay. Twenty-five percent of these children were uninsured and 21 percent were enrolled in either Medicaid or *hawk-i*. The Medicaid children presented with over 19 percent untreated decay and the uninsured children presented with 15 percent. If these children fail to receive follow up dental care, the potential for more situations like Deamonte’s exists and could result in millions of dollars of unnecessary hospitalizations and even death.

Iowa has a unique opportunity to address this issue constructively in 2007 and assure that such problems in the future are reduced. Local Empowerment agencies and public health can partner to provide resources to enhance dental prevention, early disease detection, and education. Had such a system identified Deamonte’s condition early enough, the tragedy may have been avoided all together.



Sheila Hansen  
515-280-9027  
[shansen@cfpciowa.org](mailto:shansen@cfpciowa.org)

Tiffany Smith, LMSW  
515-280-9027  
[tiffany@cfpciowa.org](mailto:tiffany@cfpciowa.org)

Are you receiving timely information and updates on legislation affecting young children and families? Don't forget about the work of Every Child Counts - an advocacy network - and a division of the Child & Family Policy Center. You can sign up to receive information at their web site:  
[www.everychildcountsiowa.org](http://www.everychildcountsiowa.org)

# Upcoming Opportunities:

## “Partnering to Protect Children”

### 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference

May 7-8, 2007

Hosted by Prevent Child Abuse Iowa  
Sheraton West Des Moines

For more information visit:  
[www.pcaiowa.org](http://www.pcaiowa.org)

#### Workshops

- Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development™ Train-the-Trainer
- The Iowa Principles and Practices for Charitable Non-Profit Excellence
- Understanding and Responding to the Sexual Behaviors of Children
- Strengthening Family Resiliency
- Home Visit Safety for Professionals
- Dealing with Difficult People
- Lessons in Collaboration
- Grooming Behaviors of Online Predators
- Internet Safety panel
- Growing Up Poor: The Impact of Childhood Poverty
- Working Effectively with DHS to Help Kids and Families: What Every Helper Needs to Know
- Court Teams for Change

Workshops are also being finalized to address cultural awareness, ethics, and family mental health.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Partnering with Parents



The presentation will take place on the Web, in an interactive on-line meeting environment. While your participation is free, [registration](#) is required <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp/connect.reg.html>

Are you a professional in the field of parenting education? Do you want to strengthen your knowledge and skills? Are you familiar with *NEPEM* (The National Extension Parent Education Model) and *NEPEF* (The National Parenting Educators' Framework)?

On April 16th (1-3pm CST), come learn how they are applied in *Partnering with Parents*, an online training for parenting educators, as well as other opportunities for application. <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp/connect.html>

#### This national presentation will:

- 1) Provide an overview of *Partnering with Parents* (an in-depth training for parenting educators) that is available online (learners across the nation), as well as face to face in Iowa (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp/>)
- 2) Review the *National Extension Parent Education Model (NEPEM)* <http://www.k-state.edu/wparent/nepem/> and the *National Extension Parenting Educators' Framework (NEPEF)* <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/NEPEF/build/build.htm> and how they are integrated into *Partnering with Parents*
- 3) Discuss ways individuals can participate in *Partnering with Parents* online, as well as opportunities for Extension in other states to purchase the *Partnering with Parents* curriculum and implement it in their own states.

*Iowa's Early Childhood Vision: Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.*